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GOP Seeks John Birch Alliance

By Drew Pearson

This may be denied, but Republican national headquarters has passed the word to its field workers to form an undercover alliance with the John Birch Society wherever it may be politically profitable. The purpose: to attack Democratic candidates as "soft on communism."



The strategy Pearson is being very deftly handled. GOP planners are fully aware of the fact that the "bible" of the Birch Society calls Dwight D. Eisenhower a "Communist," and they know their tactics could backfire.

In Arizona, therefore, Sen. Barry Goldwater hasn't openly endorsed the Society, but he has declared that the "finest citizens" in his state are members.

Ironically, Goldwater's praise for the local John Birch branch came just as one of its national leaders, New Orleans editor Kent Courtney, was describing Goldwater as a "tainted Socialist."

In Wyoming, the Republicans and John Birch crowd are already working together against Sen. Gale McGee, a two-fisted former professor, who is hitting back.

He has found after considerable research that the Society's philosophy is anti-American.

1. The Blue Book—This is the operational battle plan for infiltrating and taking over civic groups. In this 182-page book, Robert Welch, the leader, says "believe in me and follow me—otherwise get out or be kicked out."

2. The White Book—This is a collection of the monthly marching orders and letters of instruction to Society members. It contains caustic attacks upon any and all with whom Welch happens to disagree. Even the U. S. Chamber of Commerce is suspected on some issues, and reference is made to the left-wing infiltration of the Chamber's Washington offices. Another tract warns that "anyone who purchases U. S. Government savings bonds is guilty of feathering a Communist nest."

3. The Black Book—This has so embarrassed the Society that it is now passed off as a manuscript written by leader Welch before the Society was formed. Written in 1954, it describes then-President Eisenhower as a conscious "Communist" maneuvered and directed skillfully by his "Communist" brother, Milton Eisenhower. Former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, are pictured as pro-Communist.

Comments Senator McGee: "The philosophy reflected in the basic thesis of the John Birch leaders is one of fear. They distrust anyone who refuses to buy their line. They are not for peace."

quences of the John Birch movement is that in its extremes it has tended to discredit respectable conservatism in the United States. At this critical moment it is imperative that the two great philosophical forces historically present on the American horizon—conservatism and liberalism—have full and free play on the solution to the great questions of our time.

"It was the liberals who wrote the Declaration of Independence, but it was the conservatives who wrote the Constitution a dozen years later. Had the conservatives prevailed at Philadelphia in 1776, we might still be subjects of the British empire. Had the liberals prevailed at Philadelphia in 1787, it is not likely that we would have the enduring framework of our constitutional system which has served us so long."

Do for Your Country

A lot of people have written asking me what they can do to carry out President Kennedy's advice: "Don't ask what your country can do for you but rather what you can do for it."

Here is one answer: one hundred and fifty American cities have adopted people-to-people friendship affiliations with sister cities in thirty-six countries. This has been a constructive step for peace and friendship, and the American Municipal Association has done a fine job in promoting it.

However, 150 additional for

else would like to affiliate with American cities and have been kept waiting because American cities have volunteered.

The process is quite simple, and it has had an important effect on relations throughout the world.

When Hagerstown was gripped by severe unemployment last winter, a group of West German businessmen offered help. A 4-year-old boy, who was vicious in the Philippines, will be able to walk again because of help from Forest Heights, Md., an affiliated city. Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota tells how residents of his state, Dr. Ronald W. Barr and his wife, traveled to Montevideo, Uruguay, which is affiliated with Minneapolis, and helped to promote friendship.

"Uruguayans were not interested in dealing with Americans at the government level," Dr. Barr reported, "but were anxious to meet and exchange ideas with the average American citizen."

"But," says Senator Humphrey, "150 town affiliations are not enough. Three hundred town affiliations are not enough. We need three thousand or even five thousand to approach the magnificent potential of American communities."

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Drew Pearson, on WTOP Radio at 6:45 tonight, will diagnose what Frank Reeves has done to District home rule.